



May 3, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn G. Boyd
Chief Clerk/Executive Director
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

Re: Act No. 17 of 2021 (H.B. 3770) - A Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of Federal Funds Disbursed to the State Pursuant to the Federal "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021" for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program; to Create the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to Provide the Manner in Which the Funds Must Be Distributed; to Provide That Certain Colleges and Universities May Contract with Private Parties to Provide Services Related to Certain Federal Employment Tax Credits; and to Provide That the South Carolina State Housing Financing and Development Authority Shall Take Certain Actions to Ensure That Eligible Households and Landlords are Aware of the Program

Docket Number: ND-2021-6-A

Dear Ms. Boyd:

We write in response to the Commission's April 28, 2021 invitation for nominees to serve on the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance Program Advisory Panel. As described more fully below, we nominate Christopher R. Koon for this position.

The South Carolina General Assembly recently enacted Act No. 17 to address the use of federal funds for the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Pursuant to this Act, the State Housing Financing and Development Authority is charged with administration of this program, and it must use the funds to assist eligible households that are unable to pay rent, utilities, and other expenses related to housing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Act also creates the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance Program Advisory Panel to review and monitor the implementation and evaluation of the program and funding. Pursuant to the Act, one representative must come from a utility provider appointed by the Public Service Commission.

We believe that Mr. Koon is uniquely qualified to serve in this role. As Senior Vice President and General Counsel for The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc., he understands the challenges faced by citizens who might benefit from this program, many of whom come from areas served by electric cooperatives. Cooperatives serve 1.5 million customers across all 46 counties. During his long career, Mr. Koon has worked with the other industry stakeholders to solve major problems. However, as important as Mr. Koon's industry experience will be, we believe that Mr.



Koon's public service has prepared him for this role. Mr. Koon has worked to improve the lives of low-income South Carolinians in numerous ways.

He is the immediate past president of the South Carolina Bar Foundation, which aims to recognize and secure legal rights for all of the state's citizens. Through the Bar Foundation, Mr. Koon has worked to fund many grantees that aid citizens likely to be impacted by this program, including Antioch Educational Center, Catholic Charities Office of Immigration Services, The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, Charleston Legal Access, Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services, the Charleston Trident Urban League, the Greenville County Human Relations Commission, Hopeful Horizons, Lowcountry Legal Volunteers, One-Eighty Place Homeless Justice Project, Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates, The S.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, The S.C. Center for Fathers & Families, Serve and Connect, S.C. Legal Services, the S.C. Restorative Justice Initiative, the S.C. Victim Assistance Network, Sistercare, Transitions, the Turning Leaf Project, and the U.S.C. School of Law Veterans Legal Clinic.

Mr. Koon is also the former chair of the board of the Appleseed Legal Justice Center, which advocates for the rights of low-income citizens. He is currently a member of the State's Access to Justice Commission, which is charged with eliminating barriers to access to justice in South Carolina. More locally, Mr. Koon has served on the board of City Year Columbia, which works to eliminate unequal access to opportunity along lines of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, age and other aspects of identity. In addition, he served a vice-chair of the Greater Chapin Community Foundation, a publicly funded endowment for the people living in the Chapin area. Mr. Koon served on the board of Friends of the Richland County Public Library, which works to fund community services provided by the library. Finally, Mr. Koon is the current chair of the House of Delegates for the South Carolina Bar Association, which sets policy for, among other things, the Bar's pro bono program.

With his broad experience, we believe Mr. Koon is the best person from the utility community to serve on the State's new Emergency Rental Assistance Program Advisory Panel, and we urge his appointment. Please contact me if you have any questions or desire any additional information.

Very truly yours,



Michael N. Couick
President & Chief Executive Officer

cc: Parties of record
(via electronic mail)